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TUCSON



NEWS RELEASE

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FINAL WELD MARKS END OF STREETCAR RAIL CONSTRUCTION PHASE

The media is invited to witness the weld of the final piece of rail for the Sun Link Tucson Streetcar, marking the end of more than 400 days of rail construction activities: the removal of existing asphalt, relocating and replacing underground utilities, installing concrete embedded rail, and repaving.

What: Sun Link Streetcar Final Weld Event
When: Thursday, July 25, 2013, 10 a.m.
Where: Intersection of East Congress Street and North Fifth Avenue
Visuals: The firing of a clay pot – a kiln-like piece of equipment – that will be used to heat, weld and connect the east and west portions of streetcar track.
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While the rail is being welded, Congress Street will be temporarily closed from Toole Avenue to just west of Fifth Avenue and northbound and southbound Fifth Avenue will be closed at Congress Street. Southbound traffic on Fifth Avenue will be allowed to make right hand (west) turn movements onto Congress Street

Sun Link Streetcar Construction Manager Joe Chase stated that “this is an incredibly momentous occasion as it signifies the final piece of rail construction for the Sun Link project. Old Pueblo Trackworks, collaboration between Granite Construction and Rail Works, has had multiple crews working simultaneously along the route, often on weekends and nights, to meet the ambitious construction schedule.”

Major civil construction for the Sun Link Tucson Streetcar will be complete later this summer with the installation of the Overhead Contact System, which powers the electric vehicles, along with the installation of public art. The first streetcar vehicles are slated to arrive this summer for on-site safety tests and driver training. Revenue service is expected to start summer of 2014.

The Sun Link Tucson Streetcar is a project of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) and part of the voter-approved, \$2.1 billion RTA plan that will be implemented through 2026. Details about the full plan are available at www.RTA mobility.com. The Sun Link project is co-managed by the City of Tucson and the RTA.

